

Special Areas

The District has 11 designated special areas including one Research Natural Area (Cherry Creek), nine Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (Wassen Creek, Tioga Creek, North Fork Coquille, China Wall, New River, North Spit, Hunter Creek Bog, North Fork Hunter Creek, and North Fork Chetco), and one Environmental Education Area (Powers). Currently New River, Hunter Creek Bog, and North Fork Hunter Creek have completed management plans. Future plans are being proposed for the other ACEC within the next few years.

Implementation activities within the ACECs included the following:

New River:

- Continued implementation and maintenance of trails plan.
- Had a site host present for portion of year to monitor visitor use.
- Continued western snowy plover management and had volunteer monitoring recreation use.
- Treated approximately 75 acres of European beachgrass on beach foredune.

North Spit:

- Continued the operation and maintenance of North Spit boat ramp.
- Monitoring was completed for great blue heron/great egret rookery, salt marsh bird's beak, and western snowy plover distribution and reproductive success.
- Compliance monitoring was completed for seasonal western snowy plover closures, sensitive plant area, and inland areas closed to vehicle traffic.
- Erected purple martin nest boxes on pilings and dolphins adjacent to BLM lands and monitored them for use.
- Maintained western snowy plover habitat through disking of inland habitat areas and provided herbicide and assistance with herbicide application project by ODFW on an inland habitat area.
- Helped US Coast Guard with project to replace navigational marker on the North Jetty.
- Assisted Pacific Power and Light Co. project to dig up and relocate utility lines from Fore dune Road to South Dike Road due to erosion on Fore dune.
- Completed required NEPA work (CX) for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) project to reconfigure/relocate FAA towers that are tied to North Bend Airport operations. Coordinated and assisted FAA workers with on-the-ground aspects of completing this project.

Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values

During FY 2000 the District continued involvement at Cape Blanco, with a sixth full season of lighthouse tours. The analysis of lighthouse visitor data was updated to include five seasons of tours. Results show a consistent pattern of visitation, with over 23,000 visitors during FY 2000. A contract was let for an engineering assessment of the lighthouse condition to assist in future

planning activities.

The District, in partnership with the Coquille Indian Tribe, conducted additional field work at the Bridge Maintenance Shop site (35CS64). Although numerous artifacts were recovered during these excavations, the hearth (firepit) feature discovered during initial 1978 excavations was not relocated. Further investigation may be scheduled for FY 2001. The District cooperated with the Coquille Indian Tribe in protection of sensitive ridge-top meadows on Coquille Forest lands by authorizing a temporary road closure to prevent motorized vehicle access. The environmental assessment for a permanent road closure will be forthcoming in FY 2001.

The cultural program again assisted a Passport In Time project (excavation of a 19th Century Army post) conducted by the Siuslaw National Forest. In addition, an historical report was commissioned to better understand Federal activities which have been conducted on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Results included obtaining a series of 1892 photographs showing Jetty construction from the Library of Congress. These excellent photographs formed the basis for an exhibit, which was on display for two months at the Coos County Historical Society Museum, is currently on display at the North Lincoln County Historical Museum and is scheduled for display at the BLM Yaquina Head Visitor's Center.

In addition to these specific activities, the cultural program has been involved in clearance of ground-disturbing project localities and evaluation of cultural resource potential for District projects. Cultural resources were addressed in decisions made concerning 46 proposed undertakings: including trail and road construction/renovation; culvert replacement; hazard tree removal in recreation sites; riparian and stream enhancement; and timber management projects. RMP requirements were met.



Archaeological excavations at Bridge Maintenance Shop site (35CS64) during FY 2000.